



SPONSOR: Sen. Sokola & Sen. Townsend & Sen. Lockman &
Sen. Hocker & Sen. Pettyjohn on behalf of all Senators &
Rep. Longhurst & Rep. Minor-Brown & Rep. Harris &
Rep. Ramone & Rep. Yearick on behalf of all
Representatives

DELAWARE STATE SENATE
152nd GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 171

HONORING THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES AS IT PREPARES TO MARK THE
50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS ESTABLISHMENT IN 1975.

1 WHEREAS, the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) was established in 1975 as a nonpartisan
2 association of public officials composed of sitting state legislators from a range of states, territories, and commonwealths
3 across the United States; and

4 WHEREAS, NCSL was established for the purpose of advancing the effectiveness, independence, and integrity of
5 legislatures and to foster interstate cooperation, especially in support of state sovereignty and state flexibility as well as
6 protection from unfunded federal mandates and unwarranted federal preemption; and

7 WHEREAS, NCSL promotes cooperation between state legislatures in the United States as well as those in other
8 countries, and is committed to improving the operations and management of state legislatures, the effectiveness of
9 legislators and legislative staff, and encourages the practice of high standards of conduct by legislators and legislative staff;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, the organization maintains eight standing committees composed of legislators and legislative staff
12 appointed by the leadership of the legislatures which serve as the central organizing mechanism for NCSL members; and

13 WHEREAS, each committee provides a means by which state legislators can share experiences, information, and
14 advice on a variety of state issues ranging from policy to management and provides a bipartisan platform for this
15 collaboration in finding solutions to common problems and fostering cooperation and understanding across party lines; and

16 WHEREAS, NCSL committees meet together twice a year at the NCSL Capitol Forum and at NCSL's annual
17 Legislative Summit to adopt state-federal legislative policies that will ultimately guide NCSL's lobbying efforts in
18 Washington, D.C. – with said committee meetings serving as an opportunity for states to network and establish flows of
19 information as well as consider experience-based suggestions from other states; and

20 WHEREAS, NCSL also works to build the state legislative community by hosting various conferences, webinars,
21 publications, and leadership meetings, as well as access to relevant websites and online documents that help provide
22 lawmakers with information, data, and analysis about emerging issues to then inform their policy decisions; and

23 WHEREAS, the organization is led by a legislator who serves as its president, and a legislative staffer who serves
24 as staff chair; and

25 WHEREAS, the day-to-day operations of the organization are managed by its Chief Executive Officer, Tim
26 Storey, who assumed that role in 2019 following the retirement of former Chief Executive William T. Pound, who had
27 served NCSL for 32 years; and

28 WHEREAS, the Delaware State Senate was pleased to host Mr. Storey when he came to Delaware in April 2018
29 to lead a Senate staff retreat in Lewes, Delaware that focused on staff values, mission, and goals, and considered what types
30 of internal and external issues present the greatest challenges to success and what strengths can be leveraged to overcome
31 those hurdles; and

32 WHEREAS, Tim gave such an impressive performance, that it was both thrilling to those staff members who had
33 an opportunity to get to know and work with him, and entirely understandable when we learned the following year that he
34 had been named NCSL's chief executive officer; and

35 WHEREAS, during NCSL's half-century of service, 2 Delaware legislators have served as NCSL president – the
36 late Senator Robert T. Connor, who served in 1993 and 1994, and the late State Representative Donna Stone, who served in
37 2007 and 2008; and

38 WHEREAS, a former member of Delaware's legislative staff, Controller General Russell T. Larson, Retired,
39 served as NCSL Staff Chair in 1996-1997; and

40 WHEREAS, a number of other Delaware legislators and staff members, past and present, have served in various
41 capacities with, or been honored by NCSL over the past 50 years; and

42 WHEREAS, many Delaware legislators and staff members have participated over the years in NCSL seminars,
43 symposiums, staff trainings, and other events, with the organization offering evidence-based research to help legislators
44 address complex issues more effectively; and

45 WHEREAS, these have included the following: former House Speaker Peter C. Schwartzkopf, who served on the
46 NCSL Executive Committee; Senator Marie Pinkney, who served as a Maternal and Child Health Fellow with NCSL in
47 2023; former State Representative David Bentz, who served as an NCSL Opioid Policy Fellow; and Delaware legislative
48 staffers Richard Dillard, Lori Christiansen, and Mark Cutrona, who have been honored with the Legislative Staff
49 Achievement Award by NCSL's Research, Editorial, Legal, and Committee Staff Association (RELACS); and

50 WHEREAS, other Delaware legislative staff members who have received the Legislative Staff Achievement
51 Award have included Janet Roberson and Angel Burack of the General Assembly's IT staff, who were honored by NCSL's
52 National Association of Legislative Information Technology (NALIT); House staffer Lori Rigby (2002), Senate staffer

53 David Wilkins (1998), who received the award from NCSL’s Leadership Staff Professional Association; and House staffer
54 Drew Volturo who was honored by NCSL’s Legislative Information and Communications Staff Association; and

55 WHEREAS, Mr. Cutrona and Legislative Attorney Holly Vaughn Wagner have served, or are presently serving,
56 on the Executive Committee of the RELACS Association, and several members of our Legislative Council’s Division of
57 Research staff have presented programs at various RELACS professional development seminars over the years; and

58 WHEREAS, in 2020, the Delaware General Assembly was honored by NCSL for its legislative drafting manual,
59 which was termed a “Notable Document”; and

60 WHEREAS, NCSL staff members have greatly assisted the Delaware General Assembly in many ways over the
61 years and play a crucial role in strengthening state legislatures, enhancing the effectiveness of state governance, and
62 ensuring that state interests are represented at the national level.

63 NOW, THEREFORE:

64 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the 152nd General Assembly, the House of Representatives concurring
65 therein, that the members do hereby honor and commend the National Conference of State Legislatures, and its leadership
66 and staff, past and present, for their outstanding service to the legislatures of Delaware and other states, territories, and
67 commonwealths in the United States over the past half-century.

68 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the Senate and the House of Representatives extend to all
69 those associated with the National Conference of State Legislatures heartfelt best wishes for a wonderful 50th Anniversary
70 celebration, together with the hope that NCSL will enjoy many more years of success.

71 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that suitable copies of this Senate Concurrent Resolution be shared with the
72 National Conference of State Legislatures, its members, officers, and staff.

SYNOPSIS

This Senate Concurrent Resolution honors the National Conference of State Legislatures, and its members, leadership, and staff, past and present, for its outstanding work as it prepares to mark 50 years of service to the Delaware General Assembly and the legislatures of other U.S. states, territories, and commonwealths.

Author: Senator Sokola